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WALTER M. DICKIE, M.D., Director

University of California

Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

Highlights in California's Public Health in 1937

Many new activities in the promotion of public health have been started in California during the past year, and many old activities have been either amplified or renewed.

Of first importance is the reestablishment of the Bureau of Venereal Diseases in the California State Department of Public Health. This was made possible by legislative enactment and approved by Governor Frank F. Merriam. In 1917, California established the first state bureau of this sort and it functioned until 1920, when lack of funds stopped its work. The state appropriation now available for venereal disease control, augmented by Social Security funds, provides for a sound program in case finding, treatment, support for public clinics, free distribution of drugs to patients who are unable to pay, education in prevention and other attributes that provide effective measures in the prevention and control of these devastating diseases.

The extensive migration of agricultural laborers into California from other states and from Mexico, has necessitated the institution of special activities to control communicable diseases among such laborers and to provide protection for residents of California. These activities have covered general camp sanitation, immunization against smallpox and diphtheria, instruction in child hygiene, maternal welfare, nutrition and facilities for the diagnosis of tuberculosis. Pediatricians, tuberculosis

workers, nurses and sanitary inspectors have worked in those districts of the San Joaquin Valley, particularly, where approximately 100,000 migratory laborers have been employed during the past season. A motor-truck equipped with X-ray apparatus and other facilities for the diagnosis of tuberculosis is moved from camp to camp, where clinics for the discovery of tuberculosis cases are conducted.

Because of the various hazards connected with many industries of the state, it has been necessary to establish active operations in preventing such hazards. Various dusts, chemicals and air pollution are factors in the production of industrial diseases. Surveys have been undertaken in the various industries and cooperative efforts with manufacturers have been developed in order to lessen the industrial hazards and thereby prevent the production of industrial diseases. A special study of carbon-monoxide poisoning in transportation is now under way.

Through the provision of public health nurses in rural counties, a more extended health service to rural residents has been provided. The addition of six women physicians to the staff of the bureau of child hygiene has enabled thousands of children, living in the rural districts, to receive physical examinations which were not available to them before 1937. Two trailers, equipped with complete dental facilities have enabled three dentists added

to the staff of this bureau in 1937, to examine the teeth of many thousands of children in the rural districts, provide temporary repairs and give advice to those children who are in need of such services. Dental hygienists and a nutritionist provide educational services.

Special facilities for finding crippled children and providing them with relief for their physical handicaps have been undertaken. Clinics for diagnosis, without cost to parents, have been conducted in the counties of the state.

During the year three new full time county health units have been added to the seventeen such units that existed in California prior to this year. The new units are in Yolo, Santa Cruz and Ventura counties. The Yolo County unit is actually a reestablished unit as the health work of this county was formerly conducted upon a full time basis.

Through the provision of Social Security funds, the State Department of Public Health has been enabled to establish in cooperation with the University of California, a school for the training of sanitary inspectors and health officers. Candidates for such training have come from all of the western states. While the State Department of Public Health has acted mainly as sponsor of the activities conducted by this school, it has assisted directly in passing upon the qualifications of candidates, and in the provision of special training along practical lines of health administration.

No special problems in communicable disease control have been encountered during the year. Influenza of a severe type was quite prevalent during the early part of 1937, but no extensive outbreak prevailed. Public health conditions, in general, have been good throughout the year. Marriages and births have increased approximately ten per cent over 1936.

BOTULISM

A fatal case of botulism was recorded in Los Angeles County where a woman opened a jar of home canned corn, tasted it without swallowing any and threw the contents to the chickens. Ten chickens died the same day and five the next day, all having symptoms of limber neck. The woman was taken sick October 5th, within thirty hours after tasting the corn, and died October 12th.

PSITTACOSIS CONTROL

In southern California, during October, sixty shell parrakeet aviaries were inspected and two hundred and twelve interstate shipments checked and approved. These shipments involved 1942 shell parrakeets and 314 larger birds of the psittacine family.

RABIES WIDELY PREVALENT AMONG DOGS, CASES DOUBLED IN 1937

More than 2000 rabid dogs have been reported in California during 1937, twice as many as have ever been reported during a single year in the history of the state. Most of these diseased animals have been discovered in southern California, but recently more have been found in the central coast region and in the San Joaquin Valley. The Sacramento Valley is free of the disease and only a few cases have been found in the region north of the Bay of San Francisco.

At the request of local health officers the state has placed a quarantine on dogs and cats in Santa Clara and Ventura counties. Under the quarantine regulations all dogs and cats must be kept under confinement upon the private premises of the owners under restraint by leash or in closed cages or paddocks. It is the duty of peace officers and deputies of the county health officer to enforce the provisions of the order.

The great reservoir of rabies infection is in the stray dog population. If stray dogs were reduced to a minimum rabies could be controlled easily. It would appear that the spread of the disease is from south to north and it is probable that stray dogs are responsible for the spread. Communities in which stray dogs are impounded regularly and in routine manner have little to fear from rabies.

A veterinarian in Los Angeles County was recently bitten on the thumb by a dog that he had under treatment. It was not known until after the dog died that he suffered from rabies. In spite of the fact that the Pasteur treatment for the prevention of rabies was given to the patient, he developed the disease ten weeks after having been bitten and died. There is no history of any individual contracting rabies having recovered. The treatment is preventive only and once the symptoms of the disease appear death is certain.

Children can not be adequately protected against this highly fatal disease in those communities where no efforts are exerted to control stray dogs. When the disease is as prevalent as at the present time, it is important that community action be taken in the provision of adequate safeguards. The State Department of Public Health is ready to assist any community that may desire to take definite action in the control of the disease and in establishing preventive measures.

Science is never satisfied with its results, and it is ever striving to discover missing data and to elaborate and improve on the known.

VINEGAR SURVEY STARTED

A survey of vinegar products plants was started by the Bureau of Food and Drug Inspection during October. Not only were the plants inspected but samples were taken from vinegars during various stages of fermentation. Some samples were found to contain a greater amount of arsenic than is permitted. This is probably the result of improperly washing the apples before crushing them, the arsenic having been used in sprays to control insects in the orchards. Some vinegar plants receive, as their raw material, cores and peelings from apple dryers. Since most of the arsenic is on the skin of the apples, there is a correspondingly large amount of spray residue going into vinegar made from peelings than in that made of whole apples.

LITERATURE DISTRIBUTED

During October nearly 10,000 pieces of literature covering prenatal, infant and child care were distributed by the Bureau of Child Hygiene. Of these, nearly 1000 were prenatal letters. A series of letters on infant care has been translated into Spanish and distributed in those sections of the state where there are large Spanish speaking populations.

Approximately 25,000 pamphlets on venereal disease were mailed to individuals during October, and 15,000 were distributed to health departments. Most of these were used in filling requests obtained at the State Fair and the Los Angeles County Fair.

The individual is not unlike the race. At first, as a wanderer, he tries ways and places; then, settling somewhere, he devotes himself to work. His best years are spent in making and doing. While long and faithful toil pays a man, yet upon occasion an "old hand" may wisely turn to something new. We form habits and so save energy; we do well, however, to stop short of being slaves of a habit. The world undergoes ceaseless change. We should, therefore, be on the alert to find out the meaning of what is happening around us and thereby assess the value of what we are doing. Thus by continual learning we cope with change. Life for us moves swiftly; within recent decades it has become highly complex. To keep up with the times we must keep up our knowledge. Many watch the world rush by and take no pains to find out what the hubbub is about. Political ideals, the social order, methods of production and distribution, systems of finance, and many other things are undergoing change. Only those who study are not left behind by the onrolling globe.—Leon J. Richardson.

DISEASES REPORTABLE IN CALIFORNIA**REPORTABLE ONLY**

ANTHRAX	MALARIA*
BERIBERI	PELLAGRA
BOTULISM	PNEUMONIA (Lobar)
COCCIDIOIDAL GRANULOMA	RELAPSING FEVER
DENGUE*	ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER
FLUKE INFECTION	SEPTIC SORE THROAT
FOOD POISONING	TETANUS
GLANDERS***	TRICHINOSIS
HOOKWORM	TULAREMIA
JAUNDICE (Infectious)	UNDULANT FEVER

ISOLATION OF PATIENT

CHICKENPOX	OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM
DYSENTERY (Amoebic)	PSITTACOSIS
DYSENTERY (Bacillary)	RABIES (Animal)
ERYSIPELAS	RABIES (Human)
GERMAN MEASLES	SYPHILIS
GONOCOCCUS INFECTION	TRACHOMA
INFLUENZA	TUBERCULOSIS
MEASLES	WHOOPING COUGH
MUMPS	

QUARANTINABLE

CHOLERA***	SCARLET FEVER
DIPHTHERIA	SMALLPOX
ENCEPHALITIS (Epidemic)	TYPHOID AND PARATYPHOID FEVER
LEPROSY	TYPHUS FEVER
MENINGITIS (Epidemic)	YELLOW FEVER***
PLAGUE***	
ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS	

* Patients should be kept in mosquito-free room.

*** Cases to be reported to State Department of Public Health by telephone or telegraph and special instructions will be issued.

FOOD PRODUCTS DESTROYED

During October more than 60,000 gallons of sub-standard wines were destroyed because of unfitness for human consumption. More than 143,000 pounds of prunes damaged by fire and nearly 200,000 pounds of figs were destroyed because of unfitness. In addition to these, large quantities of macaroni and egg products were destroyed.

EXHIBITS

The venereal disease exhibit sponsored by the Bureau of Venereal Diseases remained at the Los Angeles County Fair until the end of October, when it was transferred to the lobby of the State Building in Los Angeles. At the end of October it was moved to a window of the State Relief Administration headquarters at Seventh and Flower streets, Los Angeles. It is estimated that nearly 200,000 individuals saw the exhibit in Southern California alone.

MORBIDITY

Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending
December 18, 1937

Chickenpox

390 cases: Alameda County 1, Alameda 4, Berkeley 4, Emeryville 1, Oakland 30, Piedmont 3, Calaveras County 1, Colusa County 1, Pinole 1, Fresno County 1, Fresno 5, Callexico 1, Kern County 4, Kings County 1, Los Angeles County 33, Arcadia 1, Azusa 3, Beverly Hills 2, Glendale 17, Long Beach 3, Los Angeles 27, Monrovia 1, Pasadena 4, Pomona 1, San Marino 1, Santa Monica 1, Whittier 3, Torrance 2, South Gate 1, Madera County 11, Marin County 1, San Anselmo 2, Merced County 3, Gustine 4, Monterey County 1, Napa 1, Grass Valley 1, Orange County 4, Orange 2, Santa Ana 6, Sacramento 1, Ontario 1, San Bernardino 3, San Diego County 18, Escondido 13, La Mesa 1, San Diego 24, San Francisco 18, San Joaquin County 2, Manteca 1, Paso Robles 1, Redwood City 1, Santa Barbara County 1, Lompoc 3, Santa Maria 1, Santa Clara County 1, Los Gatos 2, Palo Alto 2, San Jose 2, Santa Clara 2, Santa Cruz 12, Watsonville 18, Fairfield 1, Stanislaus County 5, Modesto 3, Newman 3, Oakdale 2, Tulare County 2, Exeter 16, Ventura County 10, Fillmore 4, Oxnard 9, Santa Paula 1, Ventura 1, Ojai 1, Woodland 9, Marysville 1.

Diphtheria

29 cases: Oakland 1, Fresno County 3, Los Angeles County 3, Glendale 1, Los Angeles 8, Pomona 1, Redondo 1, Merced County 1, Monterey 2, San Diego 2, Stanislaus County 1, Sutter County 2, Corning 1, Tulare County 2.

German Measles

23 cases: Berkeley 1, Oakland 1, Piedmont 1, Contra Costa County 4, Walnut Creek 2, Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 1, Monrovia 1, South Gate 1, Orange County 1, Sacramento 1, San Diego 3, San Francisco 4, Santa Barbara County 1.

Influenza

33 cases: Oakland 1, Fresno County 2, Kings County 1, Los Angeles County 2, Glendale 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 12, Santa Monica 1, Whittier 2, Huntington Beach 1, San Diego County 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 4, Paso Robles 2, San Mateo County 1.

Malaria

4 cases: Alameda 1, Los Angeles 1, Marysville 1, California 1.*

Measles

72 cases: Colusa County 1, Fresno County 1, Callexico 2, Kings County 1, Los Angeles County 2, Compton 1, Hermosa 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 9, Montebello 1, Pomona 1, Santa Monica 1, South Gate 1, Merced County 11, Los Banos 8, Tustin 1, Sacramento 2, San Diego 4, San Francisco 1, Mountain View 1, Modesto 1, Tulare County 15, Tulare 4, Ventura 1.

Mumps

287 cases: Alameda 2, Berkeley 2, Oakland 18, Fresno 6, Callexico 1, Los Angeles County 25, Alhambra 1, Arcadia 1, Compton 1, Covina 1, El Monte 1, El Segundo 3, Glendale 8, Long Beach 10, Los Angeles 21, Pasadena 1, San Fernando 1, Santa Monica 2, South Gate 1, Monterey Park 1, Maywood 3, Madera County 9, Madera 2, Napa County 4, Anaheim 3, Santa Ana 1, La Habra 2, Sacramento 5, North Sacramento 2, San Diego County 16, Escondido 2, San Diego 19, San Francisco 29, Tracy 1, Paso Robles 1, San Mateo County 1, Redwood City 1, San Mateo 1, South San Francisco 2, Santa Barbara County 8, Lompoc 1, Santa Maria 6, Santa Clara County 1, Santa Cruz 1, Vallejo 2, Santa Rosa 5, Stanislaus County 14, Oakdale 17, Tulare County 11, Visalia 1, Ventura County 2, Fillmore 7.

Pneumonia (Lobar)

83 cases: Oakland 2, Colusa County 1, Contra Costa County 1, Concord 1, Richmond 1, Fresno County 1, Los Angeles County 11, Glendale 2, Los Angeles 30, Pasadena 1, San Gabriel 1, Santa Monica 1, Whittier 1, South Gate 1, Gardena 1, Madera County 1, Orange County 2, Sacramento 1, San Bernardino 1, San Diego 3, San Francisco 13, Stockton 1, Paso Robles 1, San Jose 1, Sutter County 1, Marysville 2.

Scarlet Fever

193 cases: Alameda 1, Hayward 1, Oakland 9, Calaveras County 1, Colusa 1, Concord 1, Pittsburg 2, Fresno County 5, Willows 1, Imperial County 1, El Centro 1, Kern County 9, Bakersfield 3, Kings County 8, Lassen County 5, Los Angeles County 19, Alhambra 5, Arcadia 2, El Segundo 1, Glendale 2, Huntington Park 1, Long Beach 11, Los Angeles 29, Pasadena 3, Pomona 1, Santa Monica 1, South Pasadena 1, Monterey Park 1, Signal Hill 1, Bell 1, Merced County 6, Salinas 1, Orange County 6, Huntington Beach 1, Santa Ana 2, Placentia 1, Tustin 1, Perris 1, Sacramento County 1, Ontario 1, Redlands 1, San Diego County 4, San Diego 2, San Francisco 9, San Joaquin County 1, Lodi 1, Stockton 5, Tracy 2, San Luis Obispo County 1, Redwood City 3, San Mateo 1, Santa Barbara County 1, San Jose 1, Siskiyou County 1, Healdsburg 1, Modesto 1, Sutter County 1, Tulare County 6, Ventura County 1, Ventura 1.

Smallpox

29 cases: Fresno County 1, Kings County 21, Sacramento 2, Tulare County 2, Exeter 1, Visalia 1, Tuolumne County 1.

Typhoid Fever

12 cases: Imperial County 2, Los Angeles County 2, Los Angeles 2, Tulare County 4, Ventura County 1, California 1.*

Whooping Cough

313 cases: Berkeley 6, Oakland 5, Gridley 13, Contra Costa County 10, Concord 1, Humboldt County 5, Kern County 4, Kings County 1, Los Angeles County 23, Alhambra 3, Glendale 2, Huntington Park 1, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 23, Monrovia 7, Pasadena 1, San Fernando 1, Santa Monica 6, Sierra Madre 1, Whittier 2, Merced County 2, Monterey County 1, King City 2, Salinas 1, Napa 3, Santa Ana 1, Seal Beach 1, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 25, San Diego County 15, Escondido 1, La Mesa 1, National City 11, San Diego 15, San Francisco 59, San Joaquin County 4, Lodi 1, Stockton 12, Paso Robles 12, Daly City 3, Redwood City 1, San Bruno 1, San Mateo 1, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Maria 2, Santa Clara County 1, Palo Alto 1, Santa Cruz County 3, Watsonville 7, Stanislaus County 1, Turlock 1, Ventura 5.

Meningitis (Epidemic)

3 cases: Contra Costa County 1, Glendale 1, San Francisco 1.

Dysentery (Amoebic)

4 cases: Los Angeles County 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 1, Fullerton 1.

Dysentery (Bacillary)

7 cases: Antioch 1, Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 1, Sacramento 1, San Francisco 2, Tulare 1.

Poliomyelitis

5 cases: Colusa County 1, Fresno 1, Bakersfield 1, Santa Monica 1, Stockton 1.

Tetanus

One case: Kern County.

Trachoma

3 cases: Imperial County 1, Lodi 1, California 1.*

Encephalitis (Epidemic)

2 cases: Imperial County 1, Callexico 1.

Hookworm

One case: Los Angeles.

Paratyphoid Fever

One case: Red Bluff.

Trichinosis

One case: Los Angeles.

Food Poisoning

10 cases: Kern County 3, San Francisco 7.

Undulant Fever

2 cases: Ontario 1, Marysville 1.

Tularemia

One case: Inyo County.

Coccidioides Granuloma

One case: Kern County.

Rabies (Animal)

37 cases: Kings County 1, Hanford 1, Los Angeles County 3, Compton 1, Glendale 1, Glendora 1, La Verne 1, Los Angeles 18, Pasadena 2, Pomona 1, Madera County 1, Merced County 1, Orange County 2, Orange 1, San Bernardino 1, Daly City 1.

* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the state or those who contracted their illness traveling about the state throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.